

From: [Moore, Gary](#)
To: ["Steven Shurn"](#)
Subject: FW: CES Houston Facility: 4904 Griggs Rd, Houston, TX 77021
Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2014 2:51:00 PM
Attachments: [04.16.14 Access Agreement \(Draft\).docx](#)

Mr. Shurn:

The following was sent to Mr. Askanase but it indicated he was out of the office till April 21 and I wanted to make sure someone with his office received this message.

Thanks

Gary Moore
Federal On-Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 6
214-789-1627 cell
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moore.gary@epa.gov

From: Moore, Gary
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2014 2:23 PM
To: David Askanase
Cc: 'Omar Valdez'; Werner, Robert; Webster, Susan
Subject: CES Houston Facility: 4904 Griggs Rd, Houston, TX 77021
Mr. Askanase:

I am contacting you to let you know that the TCEQ and EPA have been discussing the situation at the facility and the lack of significant progress to address the environmental issues on the site (primarily disposing of the wastes). As you know, the containers on the site continue to deteriorate putting the community at risk of exposure to the hazardous substances located on the site.

The EPA and TCEQ have asked for certain things to be done for which you received or were copied on. We do not believe that these actions have been satisfactorily accomplished. Additionally, we are not sure what the timing is for the ultimate cleanup of the facility.

We are concerned about the following:

1. Security of the Facility: Perimeter fencing is not adequate to keep unauthorized people off the site and on-site security is not maintained to deter unauthorized people from coming on the site. This is evidenced by the recent vandalism and theft that was reported to have occurred.
2. Air Quality: We are concerned about the potential exposure to those surrounding the site due to the recent spills and the potential for additional spills and possible exposures due to continued deteriorating conditions. The odors from the site will likely increase as the weather warms up unless actions are taken to dispose of the containerized wastes and spills.
3. Off-Site Releases/Storm Water Management: We realize that recent actions were taken to attempt to contain stormwater onsite with the construction of berms at certain locations around the property. We are not confident that this will eliminate off-site drainage of contaminated materials.
4. Wastes/Cleanup Plan: We have gotten nothing in writing that describes the plan for cleanup and the timing of such cleanup. This needs to be provided to EPA and TCEQ immediately.

The EPA and TCEQ have been considering taking action on this site since late March 2014 after we learned of the reported vandalism and spills but tempered that response to allow you as the trustee to take appropriate actions to address the site. The TCEQ and EPA are not confident that you will be

able to address the issues at this site in a timely fashion. In order to get ready for a possible Federal Superfund Action, the EPA is requesting the following:

1. Completion of the "Consent for Access Form" and return to me by email in a pdf format;
2. Copies of the Property Deeds for each of the properties associated with the facility (ie. 4904 Griggs, 4900 Griggs, and 5910 Wayland)

Thanks

Gary Moore

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From: Moore, Gary

Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 11:42 PM

To: Mickey Edmondson

Cc: Sharon Reese; Steven Shurn; David Askanase

Subject: RE: CES Houston Facility: 4904 Griggs Rd, Houston, TX 77021

Mickey:

At the present, the TCEQ is going to take the lead in working with you and the trustee to address the issues at the site. The TCEQ will work with the City of Houston to make sure their interests are also addressed and vise versa. The immediate issues are as follows:

1. Site Security: The fencing repairs need to be addressed immediately to make the property secure. Additionally, we believe that on-site security needs to be employed until you guys can properly deal with the waste on the property. Failure to provide adequate security measures could result in additional vandalism and chemical exposure to the surrounding population.

2. Air Monitoring: Periodic and/or remote air monitoring needs to be employed to insure that the surrounding population and those that legally enter the site are protected from potential exposure due to unforeseen releases while the waste remains on the site.

3. Storm Water Management: A stormwater management plan needs to be developed for the property to insure that stormwater that falls on the property does not leave the property. Failure to do this could result in off-site contamination which would increase the cost of any cleanup action. At this point, I am not sure that off-site contamination has not already impacted the surrounding residential properties.

4. Cleanup Plan: You are going to need to provide TCEQ with a schedule for cleanup of property and more importantly the removal of all the wastes on the property. The more quickly the waste is disposed the better off everyone is. The longer the property remains vacant and unmaintained, the more likely deterioration of the equipment will occur resulting in a release of the chemicals and possible exposure to the surrounding population. Additionally, lightning strikes, tornadoes, hurricanes, flooding storms and the like could also result in releases and exposures to the surrounding population.

Meaningful action on this site can no longer be delayed. Bandaid solutions are no longer an option. It is time for action to be taken to removal all the on-site waste and clean this property up.

On a final note, I would like a copy of the plat and/or property drawing for this property along with the waste profile for the materials in each of the existing containers on the site. You had indicated that you think that the tank trailers containing the hazardous waste that were stolen off the property that the waste may have been pumped into on-site

tankage by the thieves. We need accurate profiles of the waste in each of the on-site containers.

I believe that you need to start working on these issues now but you should confirm that with TCEQ. EPA will be in contact with TCEQ to check on your progress and will back both TCEQ and the City of Houston on any issues related to this site. The TCEQ and the City of Houston will likely have additional requests of you beyond those I listed above.

Thanks

Gary Moore

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From: Moore, Gary

Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 10:30 PM

To: Mickey Edmondson

Subject: CES Houston Facility: 4904 Griggs Rd, Houston, TX 77021

Mickey:

It was nice talking with you this evening. I forgot to mention to you that when there is a release of a Reportable Quantity of a Hazardous Substance to the environment that the responsible party is required to report this release to the State Emergency Number and the Federal Emergency Number. The Federal Report is immediately. I am not sure what the State requirement is. Those numbers are:

State: 800-832-8224

Federal: 800-424-8802

For the federal report, it is usually easier with a complicated issue to report through a web report. I am not sure if the State has a web report address. The federal is:
nrc.uscg.mil

The NRC website is currently down for maintenance and I am told that it will not be back up until next week sometime.

I think it is very important that you or someone make this report for the Responsible Party which I believe is the Trustee as this is a requirement of Federal and State Law.

Thanks

Gary Moore

Federal On-Scene Coordinator

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